

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01089 191616Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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P R 191400Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5642

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EG

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS RE EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS FOR  
POLITICAL CONCESSIONS

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT. FEBRUARY 19 JERUSALEM POST  
CARRIES WASHINGTON DATELINED WOLF BLITZER STORY REPORTING  
ALLEGED CAIRO READINESS TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL CONCESSIONS  
IN RETURN FOR NEXT STAGE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI. BLITZER ALSO  
WRITES THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE ACCEPTED THAT AGREEMENT IN SINAI  
SHOULD NOT BE TIED TO PROGRESS ON SYRIAN FRONT. JERUSALEM POST  
STORY, WHICH IS BASED ON "ISRAELI SOURCES" IN WASHINGTON,  
IS REPEATED BELOW. ELEMENTS OF IT APPEAR IN OTHER ISRAELI PAPERS,  
ALSO UNDER WASHINGTON DATELINE. THIS INDICATES BRIEFING OF ALL  
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON BY ISRAELI EMBASSY.  
THESE STORIES ARE IN MARKED CONTRAST TO RECENT  
STATEMENTS BY RABIN AND ALLON WHO HAVE TAKEN CARE TO AVOID  
COMMENTING ABOUT SPECIFICS EXPECTED OF EGYPT IN NEXT

STATES OF NEGOTIATIONS IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH SPECIFIC RE-  
QUESTS OF SECRETARY. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTE: NOTWITHSTANDING RIGID PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS,  
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT HAS ACCEPTED ISRAEL'S  
CONTENTION THAT THE NEXT INTERIM AGREEMENT SHOULD BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, IT WAS  
LEARNED FROM ISRAELI SOURCES HERE YESTERDAY. THE EGYPTIANS  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01089 191616Z

WERE ALSO SAID TO HAVE ACCEPTED THAT AN ARRANGEMENT ON THEIR

FRONT SHOULD NOT BE TIED TO PROGRESS ON THE SYRIAN FRONT.

3. QUOTE: SADAT'S WILLINGNESS TO MOVE AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS REPORTEDLY CONVINCED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER THAT ANOTHER AGREEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED NEXT MONTH FOLLOWING A ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. MOREOVER, SADAT IS SAID TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION THAT ALL LANDS RETURNED SHOULD BE DEMILITARIZED AND THAT THE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY EVACUATED WILL DEPEND ON THE EXACT NATURE OF THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE.

4. QUOTE. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES NO BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE EXPECTED UNTIL THE SECRETARY'S RETURN VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH. HE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE SOME GENERAL POSSIBILITIES DURING THE NEXT THREE WEEKS THROUGH THE USUAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. KISSINGER IS DUE TO MEET WITH ISRAEL AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ LATER THIS WEEK.

5. QUOTE. INFORMED SOURCES HERE REFUSE TO DISCUS THE EXACT NATURE OF THE LONG-TERM EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS, INSISTING THAT THE SUBJECT IS MUCH TOO SENSITIVE. BUT THEY POINT OUT THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, EGYPT HAS AGREED AND THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT.

6. QUOTE. THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR EGYPT IS WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND STRONG SYRIAN PRESSURE OPPOSING ANOTHER AGREEMENT. SAUDI KING FAISAL IS SAID TO BE PROVIDING A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN SUPPORT OF KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY. KISSINGER MET WITH FAISAL FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE FROM ISRAEL, AND WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY THE KING'S ATTITUDE. END QUOTE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TELAV01089  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS RE EGYPTIAN WILLINGNESS FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, IS, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006